

and her long cherished Corn Laws, Great Britain opened her ports to the admission of most of the raw materials for manufactures, and all agricultural products, free of duty, other than nominal duties, to preserve a record of trade ; demanding no equivalent, and stipulating for no relaxation of restrictions or duties in return for this boon.

Another commercial movement in the same direction preceded this two years. In 1847, Great Britain withdrew her protection of the trade, and her pupilage over her North American Colonies, withholding her bounty or discriminating duty on Colonial products, and on trade through the St. Lawrence, with the exception of square timber, (which till the last year enjoyed a greatly diminished bounty or protection, now wholly withdrawn) ; Canada was left free to regulate her own trade, and construct her own tariff. Availing herself of her newly acquired power, she raised the duty on British manufactures from 5 to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and reduced duties on our manufactures from 12 to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., thus abolishing differential duties. She also tendered us by legislation, reciprocal free trade in all the commodities of the two countries, which we did not accept.

Such was the condition of things in Great Britain and her American Colonies, and such our relations with both in 1854, when the Treaty of Reciprocity was negotiated and ratified, each province being a party, and ratifying for itself.

This Treaty provides for the free navigation of the St. Lawrence, Lake Michigan, and the Canals of Canada ; abrogates the restrictions on the Fisheries, and exempts from duty the following natural products, viz : of the Sea, of Mines, of the Forest, of Animals and their products, and of the Soil.

It is not alleged, so far as regards the free articles of the Schedule, that the Treaty has not been carried out in good faith by all parties ; but Mr. HATCH avers that it has been violated in spirit and letter by Canada, in her tariff of duties